

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 20, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-79) – Portions of the Paul –Olympia, Paul Satsop, Olympia-White River, and Olympia-Grand Coulee Transmission Lines

TO: JimJellison – TFO/Olympia
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management on portions of the subject transmission lines.

Location: The project areas are in Thurston County, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration

Description of the Proposed Action: All tall growing trees and brush to be cut and chemically treated to prevent re-growth within the transmission line rights-of-ways. Vegetation along access roads, right-of-way roads, and structure sites will be cut and treated. Danger trees will be cut adjacent to the Paul-Olympia and Paul-Satsop No. 1 lines. Follow-up chemical treatment to begin in the late summer of 2002.

Analysis: A Checklist (see attached) was completed for this project in accordance to the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285). The Checklist evaluated the following areas:

- *Description of right-of-way and vegetation management needed*
- *Vegetation to be controlled*
- *Surrounding land use and landowner*
- *Natural Resource*
- *Vegetation control methods*
- *Debris disposal.*
- *Monitoring*
- *Appropriate environmental documentation*

In preparation of this Supplement Analysis, the Checklist was reviewed. Specific information regarding the areas as identified above are described the attached checklist.

Finding: This Supplemental Analysis finds that: (1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD; and (2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/Mark W. Hermeston

Mark W. Hermeston
Physical Scientist – KEP

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 06/28/2002
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4
T. McKinney – KEC-4
P. Key - LN-7
J. Meyer – KEP-4
M. Hermeston – KEP-4
M. Martin – KEPR/Covington
M. Johnson – TF/DOB-1
O. Albro – TFO/Olympia
D. Krauss – TFO/Olympia
G. Westling – TFOF/Olympia
R. Thompson – TFOB/Aberdeen
Environmental File – KEC-4
Official File – KEC (EQ-14)

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Vegetation Management Checklist

1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

1.1 Describe Right-of-way.

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV	Easement width	Miles of Treatment
Paul-Olympia & Paul-Satsop No. 1	10, 500kV	247.5 feet	10
Olympia-White River & Olympia-Grand Coulee	NA/500kV	250 feet	Reclaim Trees

See Handbook — List of Right-of-way Components for checkboxes and the requirements for the components Rights-of-way, Access Roads, Switch Platforms, Danger Trees, and Microwave Beam paths.

Right Of Way:

Right-of-Way – clearing in right-of-way

Transmission Structures – clearing around

Access Road clearing - approximate miles – Fill-in

Reclaim (“C”) Trees

1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

See handbook — List of Vegetation Types, Density, Noxious Weeds for checkboxes and requirements.

Vegetation Types:

Douglas Fir

True Fir

Hemlock

Alder

Maple

Willows

Cottonwood

Wild Cherry

Noxious Weeds - Scotch Broom

Blackberries

1.3 List measures you will take to help promote low-growing plant communities. If promoting low-growing plants is not appropriate for this project, explain why. See Handbook — for requirements and checkboxes.

Cut stump or follow-up herbicide treatments on sprouting-types species will be selectively eliminated before it reaches a height or density to begin competing with low-growing species.

1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.
See Handbook - Overall Management Scheme/Schedule.

Initial entry – All tall growing trees and brush to be cut and chemically treated to prevent grow-into trees into the lines on the corridor. Access, right-of-way roads and structure sites are to be cut and treated. The danger trees will be cut that is adjacent to the Paul-Olympia and Paul-Satsop No. 1 lines. Follow-up chemical treatment to begin in the late summer of 2002.

Subsequent entries – Every 4-5 years, a maintenance contract will be necessary to treat sprouts. The use of herbicides on the initial and subsequent cycles should reduce the quantity and cost of work.

Future cycles – Same as above.

2. IDENTIFY SURROUNDING LAND USE AND LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS

2.1 List the types of landowners and land uses along your corridor.
See Handbook — Landowners/Managers/Uses for requirements, and List of Landowners/Managers/Uses for a checkbox list.

Landowners/Managers/Uses:

Residential

Rural

Grazing lands

Industrial Forest lands

2.2 Describe method for notifying right-of-way landowners and requesting information (i.e., door hanger, letter, phone call, e-mail, and/or meeting). Develop landowner mail list, if appropriate.
See Handbook — Methods for Notification and Requesting Information for requirements.

Olympia will send letters to the property owners about 2 weeks prior to cutting the brush. Door to door contact will be made where it is warranted.

2.3 List the specific land owner/land use measures — determined from the handbook or through your consultations with the entities — that will be applied.

See handbook — Requirements and Guidance for Various Landowners/Uses for requirements and guidance, also Residential/Commercial, Agricultural, Tribal Reservations, FS-managed lands, BLM –managed lands, Other federal lands, State/ Local Lands.

Span		Landowner/use	Specific measures to be applied
To	From		
3/5 +850	4/1 +200	Earnest Fitch	Tree Control Agreement
5/1+600	5/3 +500	T.J. O'Connor	L.U. Agreement

2.4 Review any existing landowner agreements (e.g. tree/brush Permits or Agreements).

List in table above any provisions that need to be followed and where they are located.

See handbook — Landowner Agreements for requirements.

All the tree agreement listed above are in compliance except the Earnest Fitch. I spoke with them and they will cut the trees to the height stated in the agreement

2.5 List any known casual informal use of the right-of-way by non-owner publics. List any constraints or measure’s to take due to the informal use.

See handbook — Casual Informal Use of Right-of-way for requirements.

N/A

2.6 List other potentially affected people, agencies, or tribes (that are not landowners/managers) that need to be notified or coordinated with. Describe method of notification and coordination.

See handbook — Other Potentially Affected Publics for requirements and suggestions.

N/A

3. IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCES

See Handbook — Natural Resources

3.1 List any water resources (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) that may be impacted by vegetation control activities. For each water body describe the control methods and requirements or mitigation measures that will be used.

See Handbook — Water Resources for requirements for working near water resources including buffer zones.

Span		Water-body	T&E ?	Method	Herbicide	Application Technique	Buffer	Other
To	From							
1/4+1000	1/4 + 1826	Pond	No	Hand/Sel	Garlon 3A/accord	Spot appl.	Edge	Trees fallen away from creek
3/5+750	3/5+850	Skookum chuck River	No	Top Trees	No	.	100'	'Trees fallen away from creek.
4/1	4/1+500	No-name Cr. Wetlands	No	Hand/Sel. Hand/Sel.	Garlon 3A/accord	Spot appl.	Edge	Trees fallen away from creek.
5/3+500	5/3+1100	No-named Creek	No	Hand/Sel.	Garlon 3A/accord	Spot Appl.	Edge	Trees fallen en away from creek
6/2+415	6/2+485	No-named Creek	No	Hand/Sel.	Garlon 3A/accord	Spot Appl.	Edge	Trees fallen away from creek
6/3+400	6/3+775	No-named Creek/ Wetlands	No	Hand/Sel.	Garlon 3A/accord	Spot Appl.	Edge	Trees fallen away from creek
9/5+250	9/5+775	Wetlands	No		Garlon 3A/accord	Spot Appl.	Edge	Trees fallen away from creek.

3.2 If planning to use herbicides, list locations of any known irrigation source, wells, or springs (landowners maybe able to provide this info if requested).

See Handbook — Herbicide Use Near Irrigation, Wells or Springs for buffers and herbicide restrictions.

Span		Well/irrigation/or spring	Herbicide	Buffer	Other notes/measures
To	From				
4/1+200	4/1+200	Well/Pump House	Garlon 3A/accord	167	Well/Pump House is 50' from south edge of R/W.

3.3 List below the areas that have Threatened or Endangered Plant or Animal Species and the name of the species, and any special measures that need to be taken due to their presence. Attach any BAs, T&E maps, or letters from US Fish and Wildlife.

See Handbook — T&E Plant or Animal Species for requirements and determining presence.

Span		T&E Species	Method/mitigation or avoidance measures
To	From		
		None	

3.4 List any other measures to be taken for enhancing wildlife habitat or protecting species.

See Handbook — Protecting Other Species for requirements.

Span		Species	Measures
To	From		
		N/A	

3.5 List any visually sensitive areas and the measures to be taken at these areas.

See Handbook — Visual Sensitive Areas for requirements.

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
10/4+400	10/4+650	I-5 Freeway	Selectively cut trees whose height is greater than 20' in order to maintain a visual buffer on both sides of the freeway.

3.6 List areas with cultural resources and the measures to be taken in those areas.

See Handbook – Cultural Resources for requirements.

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
			Avoidance of all known cultural sites.

3.7 List areas with steep slopes or potential erosion areas and the measure and methods to be applied in those areas.

See Handbook – Steep/Unstable Slopes for requirements.

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
		N/A	

3.8 List areas of spanned canyons and the type of cutting needed.

See Handbook – Spanned Canyons for requirements.

Span		Methods, cutting
To	From	
		N/A

4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS

See Handbook — Methods

4.1 List Methods that will be used in areas not previously addressed in steps above.

See Handbook — Manual, Mechanical, Biological, and Herbicides for requirements for each of the methods.

Span		Methods, including herbicide active ingredient, trade name, application technique
To	From	
1/1	15/4	For non-sensitive areas (spans) cut stump/basal treatment with 25% Garlon 4 and 75% Forest Crop Oil (FCO). 50/50 Accord or Garlon 3A/Water for stump treatment in the riparian zones; Stubble treat structure sites and the right-of-way roads with 90% Water, 6% FCO, 3% Garlon 4 and 1% Tordon 22 K. Follow-up treatment-foliar application of the above chemicals as noted under stubble treatment, except FCO. Foliar treat Scotch broom.

5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION

5.1 Describe the debris disposal methods to be used and any special considerations.

See Handbook — Debris disposal for a checkbox list and requirements.

Debris Disposal:

Chip (Mechanical brush disposal unit cuts brush into chips 4 in. or less in diameter, and spread over ROW, piled on ROW, or trucked off site. Trunks too large for the chipper are limbed and the limbs chipped. Trunks are placed in rows along the edge of the right-of-way or scattered, as the situation requires.)

Lop and Scatter (Branches of a fallen tree are cut off (lopped) by ax or chainsaw, so the tree trunk lies flat on the ground. The trunks are occasionally cut in 1-to-2-m (4-to-8-ft.) lengths. The cut branches and trunks are then scattered on the ground, laid flat, and left to decompose.)

Mulch (Mulching is a debris treatment that falls between chipping and lop-and-scatter. The debris is cut into 1-to-2-ft. lengths, scattered on the right-of-way and left to decompose. This method is used when terrain and conditions do not allow the use of mechanical chipping equipment.)

5.2 List areas of reseeding or replanting (those areas not already described in steps 1, 2, or 3).

See Handbook — Reseeding/replanting for requirements.

Span		Reason for Reseed/plant	Type of Seed or Plants	Native?
To	From			
		N/A		

Native grasses are present on the entire right-of-way that will seed into the areas that will have lightly disturbed soil predominately located on the right-of-way roads. BPA expects 2-3 vehicles of the brush contractor and 1 contract inspector’s vehicle will be present on the site. A brush machine will mulch the structure sites and right-of-way roads where Scotch Broom and Black Berries are present.

5.3 If not using native seed/plants, describe why.

N/A

5.4 Describe timing and any follow-up that will need to take place to ensure germination/success of seeding/planting.

Monitoring of the success of the brush-cutting program will begin the spring in which evaluation of soil erosion as a result of the brush-cutting program will be made. If grass seeding is necessary, native grass seed will be applied.

6. DETERMINE MONITORING NEEDS

See handbook — Monitoring for requirements.

6.1 Describe the follow-up/monitoring cycle that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the vegetation control methods used.

Monitoring of the effectiveness of the herbicide treatment will begin in the spring and follow up treatment of cut stump/basal or foliar treatment of target vegetation. The mixture of the product is 25% Garlon 4 and 75% FCO or 90% water, 3% Garlon 4 with Depo-RTU drift retardant. There is virtually no drift that occurs with this mixture.

6.2 Describe any follow-up or monitoring needed to determine if mitigation measures were effective.

Annually patrol the transmission line by the line crew and the Natural Resource Specialist will periodically monitor the right-of-way for effective mitigation measures.

7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

See handbook — Prepare Appropriate Environmental Documentation for requirements. . Also prepare Supplement Analysis — Supplement Analysis— for signature.

7.1 Describe any potential project impacts or project work that are different than those disclosed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS. Describe how those differences impact natural resources and if the differences are “substantial”.

All proposed brush cutting and chemical treatment activities on the Paul-Olympia and Paul-Satsop No 1 transmission lines are noted in the EIS

7.2 Is there a need for additional NEPA documentation (i.e. Forest Service requirement, Record of Decision, supplemental EIS)? If so, attach.

No